

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 221005Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1077

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM BG
SUBJECT: CHATTRA LEAGUE CONFERENCE ENDS IN DISARRAY; MORE PRISONERS
RELEASED

REF: DACCA 1002

1. THE AWAMI LEAGUE STUDENT FRONT, THE VATTRA LEAGUE,
ENDED ITS WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE (REFTEL) AT THE DACCA
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WITHOUT FORMALLY RESOLVING THE POLICY
AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE THE STUDENT FRONT
AS WELL AS THE PARENT PARTY. AFTER DAYS OF MANEUVERING
BY BEGUM TAJUDDIN'S SUPPORTERS, THE PRINCIPALLY THE RECENTLY-
RELEASED ABDUL RAZZAK, THE BAKSAL-ORIENTED FACTION REPORTEDLY ANTAGON-

IZED THE MODERATE FACTION TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THE MODERATES
WALKED OUT OF A GATHERING FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17.

2. THE WALKOUT ABRUPTLY ENDED THE CONFERENCE, BUT AS ONE
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PARTICIPANT TOLD POLOFF, THE INTERNAL DISPUTE WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL THE PARENT AWAMI LEAGUE CAN SORT OUT
ITS LEADERSHIP QUESTION. THE AWAMI LEAGUE HAS
SCHEDULED A COUNCIL SESSION FOR MARCH 4 THROUGH 6, BUT
WHETHER THE MEETING ACTUALLY WILL OCCUR IS A FREQUENTLY
ASKED QUESTION AROUND DACCA. BEGUM TAJUDDIN'S FAILURE
TO WIN A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY IN THE STUDENT FRONT SUGGESTS

THAT THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE IN THE PARENT PARTY WILL
NOT BE RESOLVED EASILY OR QUICKLY.

3. MEANWHILE, ON FEBRUARY 21ST, BANGLADESH CELEBRATED
THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1952 LANGUAGE RIOTS AT
DACCA UNIVERSITY. PRESIDENT ZIA, AMONG OTHERS, LAID
A WREATH AT THE MARTYRS' MEMORIAL LOCATED NEAR THE
CAMPUS. SECURITY WAS TIGHT AND THERE WAS NO MAJOR
DISTURBANCE FROM THE ASSEMBLED STUDENTS. TO OBSERVE
THE OCCASION, THE BDG ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 18 THE RELEASE
OF 270 PRISONERS. THE ONE-SENTENCE NOTICE IN THE PRESS
DID NOT REFER TO THE STATUS OF THE PRISONERS, BUT WE HAVE
HEARD THAT THEY HAD BEEN HELD ON CRIMINAL RATHER THAN ON
POLITICAL CHARGES.
BERGESEN

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